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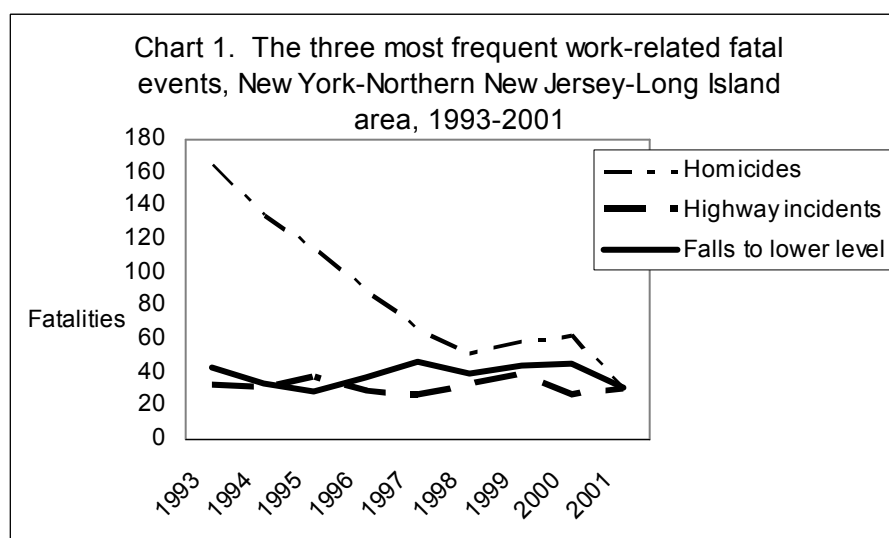
WORK FATALITIES IN THE NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY AREA AND NEW YORK CITY IN 2001

A total of 2,911 fatal work injuries were reported in the New York-Northern New Jersey metropolitan area in 2001, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Of these fatalities, 2,699 resulted from the September 11th terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. Excluding these, the workplace fatality count was 212 for the greater New York area in 2001, down from 255 in 2000. For New York City, workers fatally injured on the job numbered 100 in 2001 (excluding those killed at the World Trade Center), down from 111 in 2000. Regional Commissioner Michael Dolfman reported that the 17 percent decline for the area and the 10 percent decline for the City contrasted with a less than 1 percent decrease (excluding the fatalities on September 11th) for the nation as a whole.

For both the metropolitan area and the City, the decline in fatal work injuries was largely due to a decrease in homicides, which dropped substantially over the year—from 62 to 30 in the area and from 47 to 19 in the City. As Chart 1 illustrates, the decline in 2001 ended a two-year period in which homicides had risen slightly. Since 1993, work-related homicides in the area had fallen by more than 80 percent from the series high of 165. For the nation, work-related homicides also dropped considerably, falling to 639 in 2001. The number of homicides in the United States had peaked at 1,080 in 1994, declining 41 percent over the next seven years. Overall, homicides accounted for 14 percent of all fatal work injuries in the New York area and 11 percent nationally in 2001. NOTE: All deaths associated with the events of September 11th were classified as homicides; however, these fatalities were excluded from aggregate totals for New York City, the New York metropolitan area, and the United States to allow for comparison with prior years. Fatalities resulting from the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center are treated separately later in the release.



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Interestingly, two other events—falls to a lower level and highway incidents—accounted for about the same percentage of fatal work injuries in the New York metropolitan area as homicides did in 2001. This was the first time this had occurred since data collection began in 1993. Together, these three events accounted for 43 percent of all fatalities in 2001. (See Table 1.) Nationally, highway incidents continued as the leading cause of work-related deaths representing 24 percent of all fatalities. This was well above the proportion represented by either falls to a lower level (15 percent) or homicides (11 percent) in the United States.

Comparison with the Nation and Other Large Metropolitan Areas

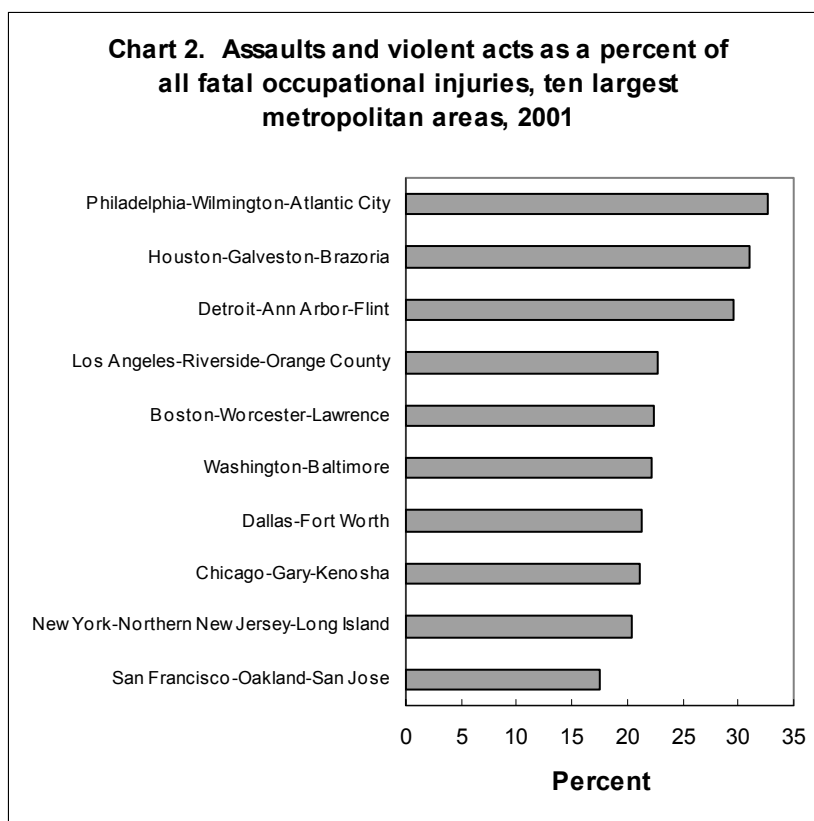
Fatalities due to transportation incidents, the largest broad grouping of events leading to fatal workplace injuries, increased from 66 to 82 in the New York-Northern New Jersey area in 2001. (Transportation incidents include highway, aircraft, and worker struck by vehicle or mobile equipment incidents, among other things.) The number of fatalities from highway incidents was little changed over the year at 30, but workers fatally injured by aircraft rose to 24 after totaling fewer than 5 in 2000.

At the national level, fatalities resulting from transportation incidents decreased for the third year in a row. Highway incidents, however, increased by 39 from 2000 and continued to be the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities in the United States. Fatal work injuries by selected events are highlighted below for the most recent two-year period.

	United States		New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
Transportation incidents	2,573	2,517	66	82
Highway	1,365	1,404	26	30
Assaults and violent acts	930	902	80	43
Homicides	677	639	62	30
Falls	734	808	46	32
Fall to lower level	659	698	44	31

Of the 10 largest metropolitan areas, all recorded shares of transportation-related fatalities below the national average of 42.7 percent. New York had the second highest percentage of fatalities due to transportation incidents (38.7 percent) in this group, trailing only Washington (39.4 percent).

In contrast to transportation incidents, the number of workplace fatalities in the New York area due to assaults and violent acts (homicides and self-inflicted injuries) dropped from 80 to 43 in 2001, lowering the share attributable to this event from 31.4 to 20.3 percent. This was one of the lowest percentages among the 10 largest metropolitan areas in the United States. Though all 10 surpassed the nationwide average of 15.3 percent, the proportion of fatal work injuries due to assaults and violent acts was close to twice the national average in three metropolitan areas—Philadelphia (32.7 percent), Houston (31.0), and Detroit (29.5). (See Chart 2 and Table 2.) Only a year earlier New York would have been included on this list; however, the over-the-year decline in assaults and violent acts changed its position markedly—from first in 2000 to ninth in 2001 (after exclusion of September 11th). In fact, New York had ranked first in the nation in the percentage of occupational fatalities due to work place violence in two of the past three years and in five of the past nine. Since the series began in 1993, the New York area had not ranked lower than fifth.



Nationally, occupational fatalities due to assaults and violent acts edged down by 28 to 902 in 2001.

In the New York area, fatalities due to falls totaled 32 in 2001, a decline of 14 from the previous year. At the national level the reverse occurred; 808 fall-related fatalities were reported, an increase of 74 from 2000. This was the highest count since the fatality census began in 1992.

In the New York area, the percentage of fatalities due to falls, at 15.1 percent, was on the low side when compared with the nine other metropolitan areas. San Francisco had the highest percentage of fatal work injuries from falls at 28.8 percent and Detroit, the lowest, 12.5 percent. The national average was 13.7 percent.

Profile of fatal work injuries in New York City (excluding September 11th)

In 2001, the number of workplace fatalities in New York City due to transportation incidents rose from 16 to 39. Aircraft incidents (23) accounted for the largest portion of transportation-related deaths in 2001; in comparison, there were fewer than 5 reported in this category in 2000. Highway incidents, on the other hand, accounted for only 7 fatalities in the City, not very different from the 9 reported in the previous year.

Occupational homicides in New York City fell to 19 in 2001—the lowest level since the series began in 1993, largely accounting for the overall drop in assaults and violent acts. The decline in work-related homicides ended a two-year period in which homicides had risen from 35 to 47. Since 1993, on-the-job homicides in New York City have fallen by more than 85 percent from the series high of 139. Despite this sharp decline, the City continues to account for a disproportionate share of the area's homicides. Although just under half of the area's total work-related fatalities occurred in New York City, two-thirds of the homicides did.

Fatalities resulting from falls went from 18 in 2000 to 13 in 2001 in the City; virtually offsetting this decline, fatal work injuries due to contact with objects and equipment increased from 8 to 12 over the year.

Construction and transportation and public utilities were the two industry divisions with the most fatalities in 2001 with 20 each. (See Table 3.) In both industries, the number of fatal injuries fell over the year, though the losses were heavier in construction (-10) than in transportation and public utilities (-4). Of the fatalities in the construction industry, contact with objects and equipment was the most common event (40 percent), followed by falls (30 percent). In transportation and public utilities, transportation incidents accounted for 70 percent of the fatalities.

Retail trade had ranked third in the area in fatal work injuries in 2000, but with fatalities falling from 27 to 11 over the year, it dropped to fourth in 2001. (This was consistent with the pattern at the national level, where fatalities in retail trade fell, although less sharply (from 594 to 537 in 2001), largely as a result of the decline in assaults and violent acts.) Even with the reduction, however, approximately three-fifths of the work-related fatalities in this industry in New York City were due to workplace violence in 2001. Government moved up to third place in 2001 with 18 fatal work injuries. Assaults and violent acts and transportation incidents each accounted for 28 percent of the fatalities in government.

Two major occupational groups—service occupations and operators, fabricators, and laborers—both recorded 28 fatalities. (See Table 4.) Within these groups, public transportation attendants and construction laborers both had 7 fatal work injuries.

In New York City, Hispanics or Latino and whites made up almost equal proportions of those fatally injured on the job, at 38 and 36 percent, respectively. (See Table 5.) Blacks or African Americans made up 14 percent of the fatalities. (In comparison, half of those suffering fatal occupational injuries in the New York-Northern New Jersey area were white, 30 percent were black, 11 percent were Hispanic and 7 percent, Asian.)

Profile of fatal work injuries in New York City resulting from the September 11th attack

Most of the people killed by the terrorist attack on September 11th in New York City were at work (as defined by the fatality census) in the World Trade Center, were on business travel or were crew aboard the commercial airliners that crashed, or were involved in rescue duties. The events of that day killed 2,699 workers from a variety of occupations, industries, and demographic groups. (See Tables 6 and 7.)

Seventy-eight percent of the 2,198 non-rescue workers killed in the World Trade Center were working in the finance, insurance, and real estate industry. Of the 412 fatally injured rescue workers, 99 percent worked for state and local government. Thirty-six percent of the 89 workers on the planes that crashed were employed in the services industry.

Of the rescue workers fatally injured, 81 percent were firefighters and 15 percent were police or detectives. Forty-three percent of the other fatalities in the World Trade Center held managerial positions, while 25 percent worked in sales occupations. Eighteen percent of the workers killed on the passenger airliners were flight attendants, while 4 percent were pilots. Half of the workers killed on the airliners were in managerial occupations.

Of the fatally injured workers in the World Trade Center, 70 percent were under the age of 45, and 74 percent were male. Ten percent were Hispanic, 9 percent were black, and 6 percent were Asian. Of the workers killed in the rescue efforts, 71 percent were under the age of 45, and 99 percent were male. Two-thirds of the workers on the passenger airliners were under the age of 45, and slightly over one-third were female.

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area comprises the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, New Haven and Middlesex Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA and New York City, 2001

Event or exposure <u>1/</u>	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA		New York City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, including fatalities from September 11th	2,911	--	2,799	--
Total, excluding fatalities from September 11th	212	100	100	100
Transportation incidents	82	39	39	39
Highway	30	14	7	7
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	16	8	5	5
Moving in intersection	5	2	6	5
Vehicle struck stationary object or equipment on roadside	10	5	--	--
Nonhighway	8	4	3	3
Aircraft	24	11	23	23
Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	17	8	6	6
Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in roadway	9	4	--	--
Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in non-roadway	6	6	--	--
Assaults and violent acts	43	20	27	27
Homicides	30	14	19	19
Shooting	17	8	11	11
Stabbing	8	4	4	4
Suicide, self-inflicted injury	11	5	7	7
Contact with objects and equipment	28	13	12	12
Struck by object	11	5	4	4
Struck by falling object	6	3	--	--
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	11	6	3	3
Caught in running equipment or machinery	5	2	--	--
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	6	3	5	5
Caught in or crushed in collapsing structure	5	2	5	5
Falls	32	15	13	13
Fall to lower level	31	15	13	13
Fall from floor, dock, or ground level	6	3	3	3
Fall through existing floor opening	5	2	--	--
Fall from ladder	7	3	4	4
Fall from roof	7	3	3	3
Fall from roof edge	5	2	--	--
Exposure to harmful substance or environments	15	7	4	4
Contact with electric current	8	4	4	4
Fires and explosions	12	6	5	5
Fires unintended or uncontrolled	8	4	5	5
Fire in residence, building or other structure	7	3	4	4

1/ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illnesses Classifications Structures.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries in the ten largest metropolitan areas by event or exposure, 2001

Metropolitan area ^{1/}	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ^{2/} (percent)					
		Transportation incidents	Assaults and violent acts	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and Explosions
Total U.S. ^{3/}	5,900	42.7	15.3	16.3	13.7	8.5	3.2
Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT CMSA.....	58	27.6	22.4	17.2	20.7	—	—
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI CMSA	152	28.3	21.1	13.8	19.7	10.5	6.6
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX CMSA	113	36.3	21.2	15.9	15.9	9.7	—
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI CMSA	88	29.5	29.5	14.8	12.5	6.8	6.8
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX CMSA	113	20.4	31.0	15.9	18.6	7.1	6.2
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA CMSA.....	193	30.1	22.8	13.0	20.7	12.4	—
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA CMSA	212	38.7	20.3	13.2	15.1	7.1	5.7
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD CMSA	98	25.5	32.7	16.3	16.3	5.1	—
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA CMSA	80	36.2	17.5	12.5	28.8	—	—
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV CMSA	99	39.4	22.2	12.1	13.1	9.1	—

^{1/} Metropolitan areas used in this table are Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs) and are based on definitions from the Office of Management and Budget Bulletin Number 99-04, June, 1999.

^{2/} Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

^{3/} Also includes fatalities occurring in nonmetropolitan areas.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data exclude fatalities related to the September 11th terrorist attacks.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA and New York City, 2001

Industry	SIC Code <u>1/</u>	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA		New York City	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, including fatalities from September 11th		2,911	--	2,799	--
Total, excluding fatalities from September 11th		212	100	100	100
Private industry		186	88	82	82
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing		10	5	--	--
Construction		51	24	20	20
Heavy construction, except building	16	11	5	--	--
Special trade contractors	17	36	17	17	17
Manufacturing		22	10	8	8
Transportation and public utilities		41	19	20	20
Local and interurban passenger transit	41	8	3	5	5
Trucking and warehousing	42	15	7	3	3
Transportation by air	45	12	6	9	9
Wholesale trade		7	3	--	--
Retail trade		22	10	11	11
Eating and drinking places	58	8	4	5	5
Finance, insurance, and real estate		9	4	7	7
Security and commodity brokers	62	--	--	4	4
Real estate	65	--	--	3	3
Service		21	10	15	15
Business services	75	6	3	--	--
Amusement and recreational services	79	--	--	3	3
Educational services	82	--	--	3	3
Government <u>2/</u>		26	12	18	18
Local government		19	9	14	14

1/ Standard Industrial Classified Manual, 1987 Edition.

2/ Includes fatalities to workers employed by government organizations regardless of industry.
(See note at end of tables.)

**Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation, New York-Northern New Jersey-
Long Island CMSA and New York City, 2001**

Occupations ^{1/}	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA		New York City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, including fatalities from September 11th	2,911	--	2,799	--
Total, excluding fatalities from September 11th	212	100	100	100
Managerial and professional specialty	27	13	18	18
Executive, administrative and managerial	21	10	14	14
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	14	7	10	10
Professional specialty	6	3	4	4
Technical , sales, and administrative support	21	10	12	12
Technical and related support occupations	--	--	4	4
Sales occupations	14	7	7	7
Supervisors and proprietor, sales occupations	7	3	3	3
Service occupations	36	17	28	28
Protective service occupations	17	8	11	11
Firefighting and fire prevention occupations, including supervisors	5	2	4	4
Firefighting occupations	5	2	4	4
Police and detectives, including supervisors	5	2	--	--
Guard, including supervisors	7	3	5	5
Service occupations, except protective and household	18	8	17	17
Cleaning and building service occupations, except household	8	3	6	6
Personal service occupations	7	3	7	7
Public transportation attendents	7	3	7	7
Farming, forestry, and fishing	12	6	--	--
Precision production, craft and repair	37	17	11	11
Mechanics and repairers	5	2	--	--
Construction trades	28	13	6	6
Supervisors, construction operations	8	4	--	--
Construction trades, except supervisors	20	9	4	4
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	77	36	28	28
Machine operators, assembles and inspectors	8	4	3	3
Fabricators, assembles and hand working occupations	5	2	3	3
Transportation, assemblers, and hand working occupations	33	16	12	12
Motor vehicles operators	30	14	12	12
Truck drivers	21	10	4	4
Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	5	2	5	5
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helper, and laborers	36	17	13	13
Construction laborers	19	9	7	7
Laborers, except construction	11	5	4	4

^{1/} Based on the 1990 BLS Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.
(See note at end of tables.)

**Table 5. Fatal occupational injuries selected by demographic characteristics,
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA and New York City, 2001**

Characteristics	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA		New York City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total, including fatalities from September 11th	2,911	--	2,799	--
Total, excluding fatalities from September 11th	212	100	100	100
<u>Employee status</u>				
Wage and salary workers	186	88	87	87
Self-employed <u>1/</u>	26	12	13	13
<u>Sex</u>				
Men	195	92	88	88
Women	7	8	12	12
<u>Age</u>				
Under 25 years	19	9	11	11
25 to 34 years	34	16	16	16
35 to 44 years	63	30	23	23
45 to 54 years	58	27	31	31
55 to 64 years	28	13	11	11
65 years and over	10	5	3	6
<u>Race or ethnic origin <u>2/</u></u>				
White	107	50	36	36
Hispanic or Latin	24	11	38	38
Black or African American	64	30	14	14
Asian, native Hawaii, or Pacific Island	14	7	11	11

1/ Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnership.

2/ The categories "White" and "Black or African American" do not include "Hispanics or Latino." Persons identified as "Hispanic or Latino" may be of any race.

Table 6. Fatal occupational injuries from events on September 11, 2001, by industry and occupation, New York City

Characteristics	Total		Office building		Passenger airliner		Rescue efforts	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	2,699	100	2,198	100	89	100	412	100
Industry								
Private industry	2,199	81	2,108	96	87	98	4	1
Construction	58	2	57	3	—	—	—	—
General building contractors	12	(¹)	11	1	—	—	—	—
Heavy construction, except building	13	(¹)	13	1	—	—	—	—
Special trade contractors	32	1	32	1	—	—	—	—
Manufacturing	30	1	23	1	7	8	—	—
Transportation and public utilities	62	2	34	2	27	30	—	—
Local and interurban passenger transportation	3	(¹)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trucking and warehousing	4	(¹)	4	(¹)	—	—	—	—
Transportation by air	23	1	—	—	22	25	—	—
Electric, gas, and sanitary services	4	(¹)	4	(¹)	—	—	—	—
Wholesale trade	25	1	18	1	7	8	—	—
Retail trade	115	4	108	5	7	8	—	—
Eating and drinking places	103	4	103	5	—	—	—	—
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1,714	64	1,708	78	6	7	—	—
Depository institutions	192	7	192	9	—	—	—	—
Security and commodity brokers	973	36	971	44	—	—	—	—
Insurance carriers	202	7	202	9	—	—	—	—
Insurance agents, brokers, and service	330	12	329	15	—	—	—	—
Real estate	12	(¹)	12	1	—	—	—	—
Holding and other investment offices	5	(¹)	—	—	3	3	—	—
Services	193	7	158	7	32	36	3	1
Business services	131	5	116	5	15	17	—	—
Government ²	500	19	90	4	—	—	408	99
Federal government (including resident armed forces) ...	5	(¹)	—	—	—	—	—	—
State government	46	2	43	2	—	—	3	1
Local government	449	17	45	2	—	—	404	98
Police protection	25	1	—	—	—	—	23	6
Fire protection	344	13	—	—	—	—	343	83
Administration of economic programs	79	3	41	2	—	—	38	9
Occupation								
Managerial and professional specialty	1,167	43	1,098	50	59	66	10	2
Executive, administrative, and managerial	991	37	938	43	44	49	9	2
Professional specialty	176	7	160	7	15	17	—	—
Technical, sales, and administrative support	913	34	896	41	11	12	6	1
Technicians and related support occupations	86	3	76	3	4	4	6	1
Health technologists and technicians	8	(¹)	—	—	—	—	6	1
Airplane pilots and navigators	4	(¹)	—	—	4	4	—	—
Sales occupations	562	21	557	25	5	6	—	—
Service occupations	540	20	128	6	16	18	396	96
Protective service occupations	433	16	37	2	—	—	396	96
Firefighting, including supervisors	336	12	—	—	—	—	335	81
Police and detectives, including supervisors	64	2	3	(¹)	—	—	61	15
Guards, including supervisors	33	1	33	2	—	—	—	—
Food preparation and service occupations	64	2	64	3	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and building service	25	1	25	1	—	—	—	—
Personal service occupations	18	1	—	—	16	18	—	—
Transportation attendants	16	1	—	—	16	18	—	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	59	2	58	3	—	—	—	—
Mechanics and repairers	18	1	18	1	—	—	—	—
Construction trades	39	1	38	2	—	—	—	—
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	14	1	12	1	—	—	—	—

¹ Less than 0.5 percent.

² Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: These totals include work-related fatalities only. They may differ from totals published by other organizations primarily due to the differences in how work relationship, industry and occupation are categorized. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 7. Fatal occupational injuries from events on September 11, 2001, by selected demographic characteristics, New York City

Characteristics	Total		Office building		Passenger airliner		Rescue efforts	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	2,699	100	2,198	100	89	100	412	100
Sex								
Men	2,097	78	1,631	74	57	64	409	99
Women	602	22	567	26	32	36	3	1
Age								
20 to 24 years	106	4	98	4	4	4	4	1
25 to 34 years	794	29	661	30	25	28	108	26
35 to 44 years	999	37	785	36	33	37	181	44
45 to 54 years	555	21	433	20	22	25	100	24
55 to 64 years	210	8	192	9	5	6	13	3
65 and over	26	1	24	1	—	—	—	—
Race or ethnic origin¹								
White	2,002	74	1,579	72	71	80	352	85
Black or African American	210	8	191	9	—	—	19	5
Hispanic or Latino ²	250	9	226	10	4	4	20	5
Asian	143	5	138	6	4	4	—	—
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	29	1	29	1	—	—	—	—
Other races or not reported	62	2	32	1	10	11	20	5

¹ The categories "White" and "Black or African American" do not include "Hispanic or Latino" persons.

² Persons identified as Hispanic may be of any race.

NOTE: These totals include work-related fatalities only. They may differ from totals published by other organizations primarily due to the differences in how work relationship, industry and occupation are categorized. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State, New York City, and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

TECHNICAL NOTES

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by federal and state agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2001 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work make identification of a universe problematic.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various federal, state, and local administrative sources--including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports--as well as news and other non-governmental reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Identification and verification of work-related fatalities.

In 2001, there were 148 cases included at the national level for which work relationship could not be independently verified; however, the information on the initiating source document for these cases was sufficient to determine that the incident was likely to be job related. Data for these fatalities, which primarily affected self-employed workers, are included in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries counts. An additional 16 fatalities submitted by states were not included because the initiating source document had insufficient information to determine work relationship and could not be verified by either an independent source document or a follow-up questionnaire.

States may identify additional fatal work injuries after data collection closeout for a reference year. In addition, other fatalities excluded from the published count because of insufficient information to determine work relationship may subsequently be verified as work related. States have up to one year to update their initial published state counts. This procedure ensures that fatality data are disseminated as quickly as possible and that no legitimate case is excluded from the counts. Thus, each year's report should be considered preliminary until the next year's data are issued. Increases in the published counts based on additional information have averaged less than 100 fatalities per year or less than 1.5 percent of the total. The BLS news release issued August 14, 2001, reported a total of 5,915 fatal work injuries for 2000. Since then, an additional 5 fatal work injuries were identified, bringing the total for 2000 to 5,920.

Federal/state

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used.

Several federal and state agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in states with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation. Fatalities occurring in activities regulated by federal agencies other than OSHA accounted for about 16 percent of the fatal work injuries in 2001.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any federal or state agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 19 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 1 percent of the fatalities; and state and local government employees in states without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the states have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover state and local government employees.)

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